

**Indiana Arts Commission**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
IAC Offices, 505N, Indiana Government Center  
Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 10 a.m.  
Allen Platt, Chair

Minutes

**Members Present:** Anne Valentine, Ruth Ann Cowling

**Members Via Teleconference:** Alberta Barker, Allen Platt, Nancy Stewart

**Members Absent:**

**IAC Staff Present:** Miah Michaelson, Stephanie Pfendler, Paige Sharp, Chapin Schnick

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions.** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Chair, Allen Platt, convened the Executive Committee meeting at 10:01 a.m. and asked for all present to introduce themselves.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda and March 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Platt presented the meeting agenda for approval. Commissioner Alberta Barker motioned to approve. Commissioner Ruth Ann Cowling seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.  
Mr. Platt presented the June 4, 2019 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Nancy Stewart noted she was not in attendance for the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and would abstain from the vote. Ms. Barker motioned to approve. Ms. Cowling seconded the motion. By roll call vote all were in favor. The motion carried.
- 3) **Financials.**
  - a. **FY 2019.**
    - i. **FY2020 July YTD.** IAC Deputy Director, Miah Michaelson, presented the July 2019 year to date Comparative Budget Financial statement (attached) noting the agency is on target relative to projections with grants contracts and first payments being finalized. Of note, Line item .2 (Technology/Communications) is ahead of projections due to early billing of expenses. Mr. Platt asked for any questions. Hearing none he called to approve the year to date FY2020 July financial statement. Ms. Stewart motioned to approve. Commissioner Anne Valentine seconded the motion. The motion carried.
    - ii. **FY2019 Year End Final.** Ms. Michaelson presented the FY2019 year-end financials (attached) noting the agency ended the year expensing the entire state appropriation and carrying forward a surplus of federal funds. It was noted line items .3 (Consultancies/Panels/Capacity Building) and .9 (Shared department operational expenses) show prepayments of FY2020 expenses and reclassifications of some grants to personal services contracts by the state. Ms. Michaelson noted these reclassifications have been corrected for the FY2020 budget.
  - b. **Cultural trust activity and other investments.** Ms. Michaelson presented the Cultural Trust financial update (attached) for the close of FY2019 and the beginning quarter of FY2020. Revenue by quarter and current investments were noted. Ms. Michaelson continued on the increased return on investment for longer term notes and coupons. In reference to the conversation had by the Committee on the Future, decreased plate sales were noted with discussion of strategies to address the decrease to follow in December. It was noted the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will not release information on other special plate sales which might help to determine if we are an outlier or if this is a trend across specialty plates. Ms. Valentine questioned if we marketed the plate during the Indiana Arts Homecoming (IAH) through the program or in sessions. Ms. Michaelson noted we currently did not but this is a great and easy idea to connect constituents with a simple yet impactful way to support the arts in the state. Mr.

Platt concurred that understanding if the saturation of specialty plates diffuses sales across the market is certainly key. Ms. Michaelsen continued that the agency will not draw from available interest in this fiscal year which is currently totaled at \$138,478.24.

4) **Office of the Governor.**

- a. **Appointment Priorities and Vacancies.** It was noted that Commissioners Kathy Anderson, Sherry Stark and Nancy Stewart's second terms end in June of 2020.
- b. **Call for prospective commissioners, update for Governor.** A list of current nominations the Commission approved has advanced to the Governor's Office. Ms. Michaelsen spoke to this Administration's generosity in asking for and considering our nominations, noting some administrations have not considered the Commission's suggestions. Mr. Platt questioned if the Governor's office communicates with the agency on interested parties or timelines for selections. Ms. Michaelsen noted that the Governor's office is communicative and our liaison, Rebecca Holwerda, is responsive to our needs. Ms. Barker noted the current nomination from region 4 may no longer be available to serve. Ms. Michaelsen continued on the importance of Commissioner nominations and making sure nominees know that the Governor's office makes the final decision.

5) **Personnel.**

- a. **Butler University Intern.** Ms. Michaelsen noted the agency is working with Butler University to secure a work-study intern.  
It was further noted that Bridget Eckert has been chosen as the Director of Marketing and Communications for the agency, thus her former position is now open with applications being accepted. Ms. Michaelsen thanked Ms. Valentine for reaching out to the Ivy Tech community which has resulted in a diverse group of candidates. Ms. Valentine spoke to the need for diversity on agency staff and making sure a diverse selection is included in the interview process. The Committee agreed. Ms. Michaelsen noted the timeline to hire and have a new Communications Manager in office is late October.

6) **Advocacy Look Forward.**

- a. **Cultural District Consortium.** It was noted the Cultural Districts Consortium met for a retreat in Fishers with Senator Ron Grooms attending to speak to the group about advocacy, the legislative process and next steps in advancing the Cultural District Bill. It was noted the Districts are poised for conversations and directives as they seek to grow advocacy statewide.
- b. **Regional Partners.** Advocacy will be a topic discussed at the next Regional Partner quarterly meeting in September as the agency seeks to understand current advocacy efforts and where they see opportunities to deepen this work and grow the field in their regions.
- c. **Grantees.** Ms. Michaelsen reported that advocacy messaging to grantees was included in their FY2020 grant award notifications as the agency seeks to begin gearing up for the long legislative session in the next two years.
- d. **Indiana Arts Homecoming.** Ms. Michaelsen noted the Indiana Arts Homecoming will have a session focused on advocacy consisting of national and local panelists including Executive Director of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) Pam Breaux, Emeritus Commissioner Sally Gaskill, and Brenda Myers from Visit Hamilton County. Positioned as an advocacy 101 primer, the hope is to get the field thinking about this important work. Ms. Michaelsen continued that this will be the first deliberate advocacy session as the agency seeks to utilize the event to bolster conversations at the grassroots level.
- e. **Strategic Plan Integration/Advisor.** It was noted a strategic plan advisor will be contracted to provide guidance and continuity in the development of the next plan with thought toward advocacy. Ms. Michaelsen noted the Indiana Coalition for the Arts, the arts advocacy group for the state, was active up until about 5 years ago and an opportunity exists to rebuild a similar support group up through the field. It was added Arts Day in the State House was organized by this now defunct group. Discussion followed on the fact that there are now no organizations, such

as the Coalition, who have momentum in the state to assist the field when they are faced with challenges. Ms. Stewart noted how important it is to become organized ahead of legislative sessions and unforeseen challenges. She cited Alaska's art council which was cut out of their state's funding and then reinstated because of grass roots level advocates. IAC Deputy Director Paige Sharp noted that the previous agency intern helped to identify different strategies among other state agencies in advocacy work. She noted the Michigan state arts agency has a robust state arts education program and the kids in these programs write their legislator's letters, which is really impactful. Ms. Stewart continued on the importance of Commissioners developing relationships with their legislators and regional decision makers. Ms. Michaelsen hoped that the presentations the agency is giving the Commission relative to rural and urban divides in funding will add to understanding where the state is and assist in well informed conversations with those decision makers.

#### **7) 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Overview.**

**a. Work plan/Timelines.** Ms. Michaelsen presented the Committee with the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Planning Timeline and Work Plan (attached) noting dates with the statewide tour, where we will need to collect data, and identifying consultants to lead planning efforts which include a project consultant, inclusion specialist, and advocacy advisor. Discussion was had on making sure diverse audiences are included in the planning and plan.

**b. Commissioner Chad Bolser, Chair.** It was noted Commissioner Sherry Stark led the last planning process. Commissioner Chad Bolser has expressed interest and agreed to chair the strategic planning steering committee for the upcoming planning process. It was noted this is his professional area of expertise. While it was noted other commissioners may want to be a part of this process, he will serve as the focused voice for the Commission on the committee and act as a liaison between the committee and Commission. Ms. Valentine noted this will be a great fit for the Commission.

#### **8) Programs, Grants and Services.**

##### **a. Amended Guidelines for Approval.**

**i. On Ramp.** Ms. Sharp presented the 2020 On Ramp program guidelines for Committee approval, noting the next On Ramp program will take place in Lafayette in May of 2020.

**ii. IAP.** Ms. Sharp presented the Individual Advancement Program guidelines for 2020 and noted this year's program disciplines include crafts, design, media arts, photography, visual and related folk arts.

It was noted even numbered fiscal years support career development in the performing arts.

Mr. Platt called to approve recommending to the full commission the 2020 On Ramp Guidelines and the FY 2021 Individual Advancement Program guidelines as presented. Ms. Valentine motioned to approve. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

**9) Outcomes Evaluation Consultant.** Ms. Sharp reported on the progress of Metris Arts Consultants as they continue to assess the current strategic plan. The consultants are preparing a memo for staff and will be traveling to meet in the IAC office to discuss their findings on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Sharp noted the assessment will look at our capacity to do the work we have set out to do and how we can improve. Ms. Sharp further noted that we want the field to be good in outcomes assessment and we want to model this work, as well. Ms. Stewart noted that considering staff capacity is important as we set out to meet our goals. Mr. Platt agreed, noting the importance to focus on those things the agency can do itself and do well without overextending staff and sacrificing the quality of the work to try to be everything to everyone.

**10) Executive Leadership Transition Guiding Group.** Mr. Platt noted that the agency is in the preliminary stages of transitioning executive leadership. Ms. Stewart noted that the group, comprised of herself and Commissioners Platt, Barker, and Anderson, is just beginning to assess the job description and will keep the Commission informed on developments.

**9) Old Business.** It was noted that Ms. Stewart joins the Executive Committee as chair of the Committee on the Future since Chair Libby Chiu decided to step down due to health issues. It was noted Ms. Chiu will remain very involved and committed on the Commission.

**10) New Business.** None discussed.

- 11) **Adjourn.** Mr. Platt called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Valentine motioned to adjourn. Ms. Cowling seconded the motion. The Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

### **Our Mission**

To positively impact the cultural, economic and educational climate of Indiana by providing responsible leadership for and public stewardship of artistic resources for all of our state's citizens and communities.

### **Our Vision**

The arts everywhere, every day, for everyone in Indiana.

### **Our Values**

The benefit of our activity is public, belonging to every individual citizen as we champion arts organizations, providers, and artists in our state.

Our activities will be transparent, fair, and ethical.

Our programs and processes will have public ownership and will build community.